

Meldreth Local History Group Newsletter October 2019

What's been happening?

At our coffee morning in April, Tim Gane gave an entertaining and informative presentation, taking us on a tour of Meldreth's pubs and alehouses. The meeting included a brief AGM. Tim has now retired from the Committee after many years and we thank him for all the work he has done - and continues to do - for the Group.

In May, members of the Group went on a guided tour of the British Library and in October to the once top-secret Bletchley Park, home of the World War Two codebreakers.

Also in May, Kath and Ralph Betts generously opened Topcliffe Mill during National Mills Weekend to help raise funds for the Group.

Group meetings started up again in September after a summer break and members have continued their research on a variety of topics, including Meldreth's historic buildings and the history of the village's Guides and Brownies. Suggestions for other research topics - and any offers of help - will always be very welcome.



Orchard Cottage, probably in 1880s

Coming up next.....

At our next **Coffee Morning on Monday 4th November, 10.00 to 11.30am, Sheltered Housing Community Room, Elin Way, Meldreth**, group member Alan Williams will talk on **'Life in Meldreth Cottages - Then and Now'**. This should be a fascinating look at how these buildings evolved and at the lives of their inhabitants. We also hope to arrange a fund-raising talk over the winter - further details to follow.

For the first time representatives of Meldreth Local History Group will be laying a wreath, hand-made by Anna Taylor, at



this year's Service of Remembrance at Meldreth's War Memorial. The Group has produced a lot of material on the war years in Meldreth and has researched the histories of those from the village who died in both World Wars - please see Wartime in Meldreth on our website. We also intend to include a tree once more in this year's Christmas Tree Festival at Meldreth's Holy Trinity Church. This will take place on the weekend of 30th November and

1st December. Please come along!

To contact us visit: www.meldrethhistory.org.uk or email: info@meldrethhistory.org.uk.

Brian Pepper

It is with great sadness that we record the death of Brian Pepper on 12th September at the age of 80. Brian was a valued and much-loved member of the Meldreth Local History Group with a tremendous interest in the natural world and in the history and people of the village where he grew up. He kept us entertained with his witty observations and accounts of the Group's visits. A full tribute to him will appear in the November issue of *Meldreth Matters*.



Our [Facebook](#) page now has 361 followers. Every Thursday this year we're highlighting a different page from our website to show the range of material we cover. Please visit the page and share with others wherever you can.

Group Merchandise

A range of group merchandise is still available and can be viewed [online](#). Some items would make good Christmas presents!

When we Meet

The Group meets on the first and third Mondays of each month at the Sheltered Housing Community Room, Elin Way, 9.30am to 11.30am.

Website Update

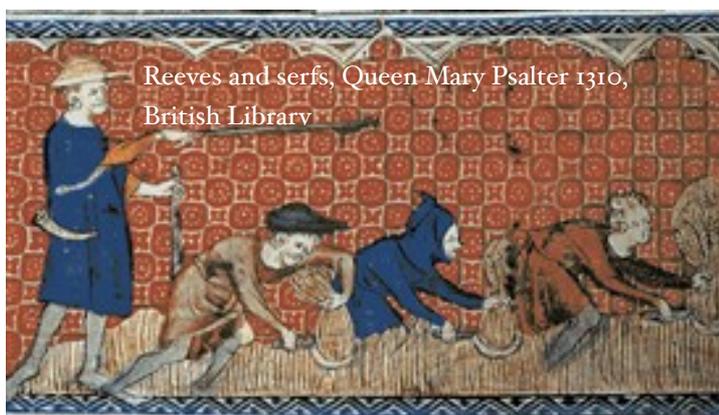
Our website now has 633 published pages with a number of further ones in draft form. Recent pages include ones on [Station Road's Orchard Cottage](#), by Alan Williams; [Richard Willows, Vicar of Meldreth 1692-1736](#), by David Marsh; and [John Jarman, a bankrupt Meldreth spirit merchant](#), by John Crawforth.

In recent months, the Committee has been considering the need for an upgrade to the Group's website. It has served us well since 2011 but is now in need of re-design, improvements to make it more suitable for use on mobile devices and enhancements to the site's security.

An application has been made to the Meldreth Futures Group (a working party reporting to Meldreth Parish Council) for a grant and this has now been approved. We are very grateful to the Parish Council for their support. The Group will also draw on its own funds to help meet the overall cost. We hope that the website upgrade and necessary training will take place over the next few months.

MLHG Committee Members

Chair/membership sec.	Joan Gane (01763) 260129
Secretary	Gloria Willers
Treasurer	Bruce Huett (01763) 232855
Publicity officer	John Crawforth (01763) 262848
Webmaster	Kath Betts (01763) 268428
Other members	Ann Rogers, Linda Clarke



Reeves and serfs, Queen Mary Psalter 1310, British Library